(a) whether Government have introduced two new Schemes for direct import of Gold of 18 carats and above ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The scheme for direct import of gold of 18 carats and above was notified vide Public Notice No. 257TTC(PN)/90-93 dated; 11th December, 1991 and has been incorporated in the Export and Import Policy 1992—97.

(b) The scheme consists of:

(i) A facility under para 88F of the Exim Policy 1992—97 for post export replenishment of the gold inputs and the studdings; and

(ii) An imprest licensing facility under para 88G of the Exim Policy 1992—97 that permits advance import of gold against expert obligation.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 926, transferred from the 4th May, 1993.

Surplus Staff in Export Inspection Agencies

1479. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to liberalisation policy of Government, the staff of Export Inspection Agencies/Export Inspection Council has become sutplus ;

(b) if so, the proposed action plan of Government to adjust the surplus staff/ manpower;

(c) whether Government propsoe to allocate extra work of ISO 9000 series to Export Inspection Agencies;

(d) whether Government also propose to extend the financial help to Export ins pection Agencies till such time it becomes self sufficient;

(e) if so, what action plan has been chalk ed out in the matter and if not the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for offering Golden Handshake Scheme/Voluntary Re tirement Scheme for the surplus staff of Export Inspection Agencies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHER1EE) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Government policy of making the exporters responsible for meeting the foreign buyers' quality requirements, the workload of the offices of the Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) may get reduced, resulting in surplus manpower.

EIAs are autonomous organisations under the Ministry of Commerce & E1A personnel are not Government employees. Absorption of E1A surplus personnel in Govt. Departments, other Government Inspection agencies or PSUs and other Agencies has been considered and has not been found feasible.

(c) The EIAs are already in the field of providing technical assistance to the manufacturing units in the country for enabling the units to qualifyi ISO 9000 series norms.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Proposal for introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the staff of the EIC/EIAs including the terms and conditions of the Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Trade Agreements signed by STC

1480. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the S.T.C. had entered into agreements with a number of companies

to import/export rice and wheat during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies with whom agreements have been made and what are the terms and conditions of the agreements; ana

(c) whether the agreements with such companies were fulfilled and if not, how much compensation STC has to give to each company during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) While S.T.C. did not enter into contract for import of rice and wheat during the last three financial years, it entered into various contracts for export of rice and wheat during the same period.

(b) Details of the contracts entered into by STC for export of Rice and Wheat are given in the enclosed statement. (See below).

(c) Pursuant to Government's decision in April, 1992 to prohibit further export of wheat from public stocks, a quantity of about 27,000 tonnes of wheat remained unshipped by STC for which no compensation was paid by it to the buyers during the period under consideration.

Details of contract of expert of wheat and Rice during the financial years 1990-91 1991-92 & 1992-93 A. WHEAT

The details of Agreements of Wheat are as under :

Year	S. No.	Name of Buyer (M/s.)	Date of contract	Quantity in M/T	Terms & conditions
1		2	3	4	5
1990.91	1.	G. Premji Trading Singapore	13-12-90	30000+5%	Specifications as laid down by Min. of Food/ Food Corpn. of India. Delivery at Indian port for shipment in bulk/bags.
	2.	Sterling Merit Ltd. London	8-2-91	25000±5%	-do-
	3.	-do-	11-2-91	40000±5%	-do-
	4.	-do-	13-3-91	85000±10%	-do-
	5.	ETA, Dubai.	7-3-91	50000±5%	-do-
	6.	-do-	18-3-91	50000±5%	-do-
	7.	ITC, Singapore	13-3-91	10000±5%	-do-
	8.	G. Premji Singapore	8-3-91	15000±10%	-do- (contract cancelled)
1991-92					
	1.	SCS Holding	22-7-91	6000±5%	-do-
	2.	ITC Singapore	1-8-91	5000±10%	do-
	3.	-do-	2-8-91	5000±10%	-do-
	4.	LGC S'pore	3-9-91	5000±5%	-do-
	5.	ITC S'pore	18-9-91	10000±10%	-do-
	6.	ETA Dubai	17-9-91	10000±10%	-do-

B. RICE

1	2	3	4	5
1990-91	1. Public Authority for Stores & Food Reserve, OMAN.	10-4-90	4850 . 4900	Basmati rice. FOB Indian port.
	2. LPN Malaysia	26-9-90	200±5%	Special Gr. Basmati Rice —FOB Bombay.
	3. Ali Pakbin, Hamburg	6.7-90	21	Basmati rice C& P Hamburg
	4. Decolab Farmers	24-7-90	20	Basmati rice CIF Savannoh.
1991-92				
	1. GTC, Tehran Iran.	23-7-91	20000±5%	Indian Superfine Long Grain Rice (non-Basmati) FOB Indian Port.
1992-93		—NIL—		

N:B. : Above contracts are exclusive of counter-trade bookings.

Rubber Production in Orissa

1481. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of progress made in the matter of Rubber production in the non-traditional areas like Orissa; and

(b) what are the details of assistance rendered or proposed to be rendered and the areas under Rubber cultivation in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The The rubber plantation development in the State of Orissa was started only in 1986.; So far an area of 270 hectares has been brought under rubber cultivation in Orissa which has not yet come into yielding stage.

(b) The details of assistance rendered/ proposed to be rendered for cultivation of rubber in Orissa include :—

(i) Making available services of suitable Technical Officers who undertake promotional work at the grass root level with a view to helping prospective rubber growers in identifying suitable areas, advising them on different aspects of rubber cultivation and motivating by explaining advantages of various schemes being implemented by the Board and the assistance offered thereunder.

(ii) Under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, the following facilities are provided :

(a) Planting grant @ Rs. 5,000 per hectare for all growers in non-traditional area.

(b) Provision of poly bags and high yielding bud grafts on remittance of a levy of Rs. 1.50 per set to raise poly bagged plants for planting in the fields.

(c) Maintenance grant @ Rs. 2 to general category and @ Rs. 4 to SC/ST category growers for the proper maintenance of the poly bag nursery set-up.